Suspension of World Bank loan to Haryana for power sector reforms

*354. SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has suspended payment of Rs. 24,000 crore loan to Haryana for power sector reforms as reported in the Indian Express dated the 9th March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it has also threatened to initiate legal action against the electricity utilities in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) the World Bank approved a loan of US $ 60 million to the Haryana Power Sector Restructuring Project in January, 1998. In December 1999, the Bank stopped making any reimbursement or payments under any withdrawal application from the loan account.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Provision of Rural Phone Services by upgradation of technology

*355. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for providing Rural Phone Services on priority basis by upgradation of technology; and

(b) the security deposits required for a village public telephone ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Capacity of the existing exchanges is being expanded and new electronic exchanges are being opened in a planned manner to provide telephones in rural areas. For public telephones in the remaining villages, the following technologies will be used :

— Land Lines upto a distance of about 5 Kms. from telephone exchanges;

— Wireless in Local Loop (WLL);

— CDOT/PMP; and

— Satellite for remote and far-flung areas;

For a VPT without STD facility, no security deposit is required now. Security Deposit of Rs. 250/- is required for STD facility on VPT.

Instructions regarding recruitment in Government

*356. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instructions regarding recruitment/filling up of posts in Government have been issued in August, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose behind issuing these instructions;

(d) whether despite these instructions recruitment/promotion is permissible, if so, in what manner;

(e) whether there is resentment/confusion among the public regarding denial of job opportunities; and

(f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to withdraw/relax these instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The instructions, inter-alia, provide that every Ministry/Department shall undertake a review, in a time-bound manner, of all the posts which are lying vacant in the Ministry/Department and in the Attached and Subordinate offices etc., and till the review is completed no vacant posts shall be filled up except with the approval of the Department of Expenditure.

(c) and (d) The purpose behind the instructions is to ensure that vacant posts are not filled up in a routine manner but the necessity for those posts should be specifically reviewed before they are filled up. Promotion and need based recruitment in different cadres is permitted under these instructions.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.